

**BARNSTABLE COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES
CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 7, 2019**

Call to Order

The Charter Review Committee (CRC) meeting convened at the Eastwing Conference Center, 3195 Main Street Rt. 6A, Barnstable, Massachusetts and was called to order at 4:45 p.m. by Assembly Speaker E. Suzanne McAuliffe. General procedural comments followed.

Attendance

Present: Mary Chaffee, Lilli-Ann Green, Elizabeth Harder, Christopher Kanaga, James Killion, Suzanne McAuliffe, Deborah McCutcheon, Susan Moran, Thomas O'Hara, John Ohman, Brian O'Malley, Randi Potash, Patrick Princi, Linda Zuern.

Absent: J. Terence Gallagher.

Charter Counsel Robert Troy in attendance.

The Chair requested counsel presence for this and future meetings of the Charter Review Committee to assist with answering legal questions from the committee.

Selection of Committee Leadership

Chair: Motion made by Susan Moran to appoint E. Suzanne McAuliffe as Chair. Unanimous.

Vice-Chair: Motion made by Deborah McCutcheon to appoint Susan Moran as Vice-Chair. Unanimous.

Topics for Charter Review Consideration

List of topics for consideration dated 8/7/19 was provided to committee and attached as an addendum to these minutes. It was noted by the Chair that the list was not all inclusive, but a summary of suggestions brought forward based on Assembly of Delegate and public comments. Other suggestion could be added.

Topic A. Governmental Restructure of Existing Model

Each committee member was given the opportunity to comment on county government structure and offered opinions and suggestions for changes that could be considered.

No votes were taken but the consensus appeared to reflect a general interest in maintaining the status quo of the legislative branch and to further consider either status quo of the executive branch with consideration of moving from a board of 3 to 5 commissioners.

Committee members expressed opinions regarding the administrative and executive functions and overall costs related to status quo and changes to the governmental structure. Other governmental models may be explored at future meetings.

There was some interest expressed in obtaining an opinion from Charter Counsel Troy regarding suggested changes to the current weighted vote distribution.

Topic B. Governmental Restructure to Alternative Model such as a Council for Regional Services (such as the Franklin County model)

Following brief discussion regarding potential consideration of an alternative model, such as the Franklin County model, the consensus of the committee reflected no interest in moving forward with this suggestion at this time.

Topic C. Recall Provision for Elected County Officials

Following brief discussion regarding the complications of establishing a recall provision in the Charter, the Chair suggested and appointed several CRC committee members to explore and report back to the CRC on a recall provision. The following CRC Members volunteered and were appointed by the Chair to the Recall Sub-Committee: Mary Chaffee, Elizabeth Harder, Deborah McCutcheon, and Susan Moran. The Clerk will schedule a meeting and forward Assembly recall materials on file to the sub-committee.

Topic D. Term Limits for Elected County Officials

Chair asked CRC Members to think about the topic of term limits for a future meeting discussion.

Topic E. Language Changes to Existing Charter for Accuracy and Consistency

The Chair suggested that sections of the Charter should be reviewed by Charter Counsel Troy and the Clerk for language changes that will update the Charter for accuracy and consistency. It was also suggested that one component of this task should include the ability to have a document that would be more accessible and searchable by the public.

New Business

Chair suggested that CRC Members continue to think about their interest in going forward with governmental restructuring. The CRC will await a report from the Recall sub-committee and will need to start a review of sections in the Charter that may need language clarification and updates.

Next meeting

No date selected for next meeting. Chair will advise the Clerk on date for next meeting.

Adjournment

Motion made by Deborah McCutcheon to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 p.m. Unanimous.

Submitted by:

**Janice O'Connell, Clerk
Assembly of Delegates**